

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1, 2, 7-12, and 18-20 remain in the application.

Claims 1, 9, 11, and 19 have been amended. Claims 3, 4, 5, 6, 13, 14, 15, and 16 have been cancelled.

In item 2 on page 2 of the Office action, claims 1-20 have been rejected as being obvious over Wakino et al. (U.S. Patent No.5,181,864) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found in claims 5 and 15.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1 and 11 call for, inter alia:

"a plastic member including a material being a mixture of a plastic and a carbon powder, having conductive properties at voltages above a given working voltage range and having

insulating properties at voltages in the given working voltage range;"

The Wakino et al. reference discloses a housing material formed of plastic to which 50-90% of semiconductor material is added, so that the entire housing has varistor characteristics. Furthermore, the housing is covered by a grounding plate (Fig. 1).

Clearly, the reference does not show or suggest a plastic member including a material being a mixture of a plastic and a carbon powder, having conductive properties at voltages above a given working voltage range and having insulating properties at voltages in the given working voltage range, as recited in claims 1 and 11 of the instant application. Wakino et al. disclose a housing made up of plastic and 50-90% of expensive semiconductor material so that the housing has varistor characteristics. Due to this high ratio of expensive varistor material, the plug-in connector has a heavy weight and the housing material loses its plastic characteristic. The housing also becomes porous and brittle. In the embodiments according to Figs. 5 and 6, the housing is only formed of plastic, but the varistor material and the grounding plate covering the housing must be added in additional production steps, thereby adding to the size of the connector. This is contrary to the invention of the instant application, in which

the housing of the plug-in connector containing the contact pins is formed of a homogeneous material made of plastic and a certain percentage of carbon powder (or filings of precious metal), which is not a varistor material. Clearly, the reference does not show or suggest a plastic member including a material being a mixture of a plastic and a carbon powder, having conductive properties at voltages above a given working voltage range and having insulating properties at voltages in the given working voltage range, as recited in claims 1 and 11 of the instant application.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest a plastic member including a material being a mixture of a plastic and a carbon powder, having conductive properties at voltages above a given working voltage range and having insulating properties at voltages in the given working voltage range, as recited in claims 1 and 11 of the instant application. Claims 1 and 11 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claims 1 or 11, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 2, 7-12, and 18-20 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of one month pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$110 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner & Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicant(s)

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Marked-up version of the claims:

Claim 1 (amended). A plug-in connector for an electrical device, comprising:

a plastic member including a material being a mixture of a plastic and a carbon powder, having conductive properties at voltages above a given working voltage range and having insulating properties at voltages in the given working voltage range; and

contact pins embedded in said plastic member.

Claim 9 (amended). The plug-in connector according to claim [5] 1, wherein said material includes between 5 and 15 percent by weight of said carbon powder.

Claim 11 (amended). In combination with an electrical device having electrical components, a plug-in connector, comprising:

a plastic member including a material being a mixture of a plastic and a carbon powder, having conductive properties at voltages above a given working voltage range and having insulating properties at voltages in the given working voltage range; and

contact pins embedded in said plastic member.

Claim 19 (amended). The plug-in connector according to claim [15] 11, wherein said material includes between 5 and 15 percent by weight of said carbon powder.